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Message Text

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ORIGIN EPA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 OES-07 INT-05
NSC-05 COME-00 L-03 INR-07 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01
CIAE-00 ERDA-05 DODE-00 EB-08 NSF-01 NSAE-00
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DRAFTED BY EPA/EXECSEC: PSHOSTAL
APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN: DKING
EPA/A-100: DCOSTLE
DOI/FWS: RSCRIABINE
OSTP: AMORRISSEY
EUR/SOV: RWINDSOR
DOE: GOLDMAN
EPA/A-106: ABPOPKIN
NOAA: JMIRABITO
----------036356 022357Z /75
R 022006Z DEC 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 288134

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: US-USSR ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT: SUMMARY OF SIXTH

1. SUMMARY

THE NOVEMBER 14-18 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING (JCM) OF
THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT WAS A BUSINESSLIKE AND CONSTRUC-
TIVE SESSION WHICH RESULTED IN AGREEMENT ON A NUMBER OF NEW
ACTIVITIES. IN ADDITION, THE SOVIET SIDE MADE PROPOSALS FOR
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THREE NEW PROJECTS WHICH THE US SIDE WILL STUDY. THE ATMOS-
PHERE FOR THE MEETING WAS WARM, AND NO MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE
DIFFICULTIES AROSE.

IN A PRIVATE MEETING WITH SOVIET COCHAIRMAN IZRAEL, US
COCHAIRMAN COSTLE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE WHICH US ATTACHES
TO INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES
AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE US AND THE USSR COULD
DEVELOP A DIALOGUE ON THIS SUBJECT. IN ADDITION, COSTLE
TOLD IZRAEL THAT HARRASSMENT OF US DELEGATION MEMBERS IN

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THE USSR, AS OCCURRED RECENTLY AT THE TASHKENT AND YEREVAN SYMPOSIA, DISCOURAGED US SCIENTISTS FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE AGREEMENT AND HAD A NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON THE AGREEMENT AS A WHOLE. FINALLY, THE MEMORANDUM SIGNED BY COCHAIRMEN COSTLE AND IZRAEL CONTAINS GUIDELINES ON COMMUNICATIONS AND COORDINATION BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES. FOLLOWING THE JCM,

MEMBERS OF THE SOVDEL SPENT SEVERAL DAYS TOURING IN THE US. END SUMMARY.

2. COSTLE-IZRAEL MEETING

IN A PRIVATE MEETING JUST BEFORE THE OPENING OF THE JCM, US COCHAIRMAN COSTLE EMPHASIZED TO IZRAEL THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE US ATTACHES TO INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO CONTROL TOXIC SUBSTANCES. IN THIS CONNECTION, COSTLE DESCRIBED HIS RECENT TALKS IN WESTERN EUROPE ON THIS SUBJECT AND SUGGESTED THAT THE US AND SOVIET UNION PURSUE A DIALOGUE ON TOXICS. IZRAEL AGREED WITH THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TOXICS QUESTION AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR COSTLE'S SUGGESTION.

COSTLE ALSO STRESSED TO IZRAEL THE IMPORTANCE WHICH
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PRESIDENT CARTER ATTACHES TO MUTUALITY OF BENEFIT IN THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE US AND USSR. IN ADDITION, COSTLE SAID THAT ACCESS BY US SCIENTISTS TO SOVIET INSTALLATIONS AND SCIENTISTS WAS A KEY INGREDIENT IN SUCCESSFUL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION.

REFERRING TO RECENT INCIDENTS IN WHICH SOVIET SECURITY OFFICIALS HAD USED HEAVY-HANDED METHODS AT THE TASHKENT AND YEREVAN SYMPOSIA (MOSCOW 15669), COSTLE SAID THAT SUCH OCCURRENCES HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE SUBSTANCE AND CLIMATE OF THE AGREEMENT SINCE US SCIENTISTS BECOME RELUCTANT TO MAKE FUTURE TRIPS TO THE SOVIET UNION. IZRAEL RESPONDED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED AT TASHKENT AND YEREVAN AND SUGGESTED THAT IF SUCH INCIDENTS TAKE PLACE IN THE FUTURE THE HYDROMET REPRESENTATIVES ON THE SPOT BE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY. (COMMENT: WE PLAN TO BRIEF US DELEGATIONS TRAVELING TO THE USSR UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT TO REPORT SUCH INCIDENTS PROMPTLY BOTH TO HYDROMET OFFICIALS AND TO EMBASSY MOSCOW. END COMMENT.)

COSTLE FURTHER TOLD IZRAEL THAT, IN THE US VIEW, FUTURE WORK UNDER THE AGREEMENT SHOULD PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON EXCHANGES WHICH PRODUCE PRACTICAL RESULTS RATHER THAN ON LARGE SYMPOSIA WHICH ARE EXPENSIVE AND INVOLVE LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE.

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FINALLY, COSTLE MENTIONED THAT THE US SIDE WAS EX-
PLORING THE FEASIBILITY OF HOLDING AN EXHIBIT ON ENVIRON-
MENTAL PROTECTION IN THE US TO TOUR THE USSR IN THE SUMMER
OF 1979. THE US WOULD APPRECIATE THE SOVIET SIDE'S REAC-
TION TO SUCH A POSSIBILITY. IZRAEL SAID HE WOULD STUDY
THE QUESTION AND LET COSTLE KNOW THE SOVIET SIDE'S VIEW.

3. OTHER MEETINGS

IN ADDITION, DURING HIS STAY, IZRAEL MET SEPARATELY
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WITH PRESIDENTIAL SCIENCE ADVISOR FRANK PRESS AND WITH
NOAA ADMINISTRATOR RICHARD FRANK. DURING THE MEETING WITH
DR. PRESS, THERE WAS DISCUSSION OF THE IMPORTANCE OF
INCREASED EFFORTS ON CLIMATE AS AN AREA OF JOINT COOPERA-
TION. BOTH SIDES AGREED TO STUDY WHETHER SUCH COOPERATION
WOULD BE BEST ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE
ENVIRONMENTAL AGREEMENT OR WHETHER A SEPARATE AGREEMENT ON
CLIMATE SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED. DR. PRESS ALSO STRESSED TO
IZRAEL THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TOXICS QUESTION.

4. RESULTS OF JCM

THE TWO SIDES AGREED ON THE FOLLOWING NEW ACTIVITIES:

(A) AN EXCHANGE OF SPECTROSCOPY DATA (UNDER PROJECT
02.01-12, INSTRUMENTATION AND MEASUREMENT METHODOLOGY).

(B) PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT FROM THE INFLUENCE
OF COAL PREPARATION PLANT OPERATIONS (UNDER PROJECT
02.01-23, PROCESS IMPROVEMENT AND MODIFICATION).

(C) A NEW THEME ON THE RATIONAL USE OF WILDLIFE FOR
SPORT AND RECREATION WAS ADDED TO PROJECT 02.05-11 (CON-
SERVATION OF WILD SPECIES OF FLORA AND FAUNA AND THE
PROTECTION OF NATURAL AREAS) WHICH INCLUDES NEW ACTIVITIES
ON IMMOBILIZATION TECHNIQUES, CENSUSING OF WILDLIFE POPULA-
TIONS, AND WILDLIFE PRODUCTION.

(D) UNDER PROJECT 02.07-11, BIOLOGICAL AND GENETIC
EFFECTS OF POLLUTANTS, THE TWO SIDES WILL EXPLORE THE
DEVELOPMENT OF AN ACTIVITY ON THE USE OF MARINE ORGANISMS
TO STUDY THE BIOLOGICAL AND GENETIC EFFECTS OF POLLUTANTS.
AGREEMENT WAS ALSO REACHED ON ANOTHER NEW ACTIVITY UNDER
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THIS PROJECT ON THE EFFECTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION ON

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NEUROCRINE SYSTEMS.

(E) FINALLY, THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO TRANSFER ACTIVITY 02.01-2303 (FLOTATION DESULFURIZATION OF COAL) TO THE ENERGY AGREEMENT.

UPON THEIR ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON, SOVDEL HAD INFORMED US SIDE THAT IT WISHED TO PROPOSE NEW PROJECTS ON THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS: (A) TECHNICAL MEANS FOR SOLVING PRACTICAL PROBLEMS OF PREVENTING ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION; (B) LOW- AND NON-WASTE TECHNOLOGY; AND (C) ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION. US SIDE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE PLEASED TO STUDY THE SOVIET PROPOSALS, BUT WOULD NEED MORE TIME TO RESPOND SUBSTANTIVELY. IN PARTICULAR, US SIDE ASKED FOR DETAILS OF SOVIET THINKING ON ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

AS REGARDS COMMUNICATIONS AND COORDINATION, MEMORANDUM SIGNED BY THE TWO COCHAIRMEN CONTAINS GUIDELINES ON THE PLANNING OF VISITS AS WELL AS THE HANDLING OF CORRESPONDENCE. (COMMENT: WE HOPE THESE GUIDELINES WILL STRENGTHEN HAND OF SOVIET EXECSEC IN DEALING WITH OTHER SOVIET GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.)

5. POST-MEETING TRAVEL

FOLLOWING THE JCM, ACADEMICIAN IZRAEL VISITED THE SAN FRANCISCO AREA AND YOSEMITE PARK. HIS PROGRAM INCLUDED FIELD TRIPS IN YOSEMITE, VISITS TO STANFORD UNIVERSITY AND TO A WATER TREATMENT FACILITY, AND BRIEFINGS BY US GEOLOGICAL SURVEY PERSONNEL. OTHER MEMBERS OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION VISITED NEW ENGLAND AND FLORIDA FOLLOWING THE JCM. FROM THEIR COMMENTS TO US UPON THEIR NOVEMBER 24 DEPARTURE FROM NEW YORK, THEY APPEARED PLEASED WITH THE RESULTS OF THE JCM ITSELF AS WELL AS WITH THEIR SUBSEQUENT TRAVEL PROGRAMS. VANCE

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